IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims such that the claims read in accordance with the following listing of claims:

36. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising:

a first network comprising a plurality of first network subscriber units and a first network sink node unit ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~ with the first network subscriber units; and

a second network geographically at least partly overlapping the first network and comprising a plurality of second network subscriber units and a second network sink node unit ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~ with the second network subscriber units; and

~~characterized in that there is~~ a dedicated connection between the first network sink node unit and a second network unit ~~capable of~~ configured to communicate~~ion~~ in the second network, whereby a first network subscriber unit ~~may~~ is configured to be provided with a communication path to ~~another~~ said second network unit.

37. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 36, wherein wireless communication in the first network is independent of wireless communication in the second network.

38. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 37, wherein wireless communication in the first network is in a different frequency band from wireless communication in the second network.

39. (Currently Amended) A communications system as claimed in claim 38, wherein the first network comprises a plurality of first network sink node units with which the first network subscriber units are ~~capable of~~configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~.

40. (Currently Amended) A communications system as claimed in claim 39, comprising a plurality of ~~a~~dedicated connections, each dedicated connection being between a respective first

network sink node unit and a respective second network unit whereby a first network subscriber unit ~~may~~ is configured to be provided with a communication path to ~~another~~ respective second network unit.

41. (Currently Amended)A communications system as claimed in claim 40, comprising:

a third network geographically overlapping the second network and comprising a plurality of third network subscriber units and a third network sink node unit ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~ with the primary third network unit; and

a dedicated connection between a second network sink node unit and a third network unit capable of communication in the third network, whereby a second network subscriber unit ~~may~~ is configured to be provided with a communication path to another third network unit.

42. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 41, wherein wireless communication in the first network and in the second network is independent of wireless communication in the third network.

43. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 42, wherein wireless communication in the first network and in the second network is in a different frequency band from wireless communication in the third network.

44. (Currently Amended)A communications system as claimed in claim 43, wherein the second network comprises a plurality of second network sink node units with which the second network subscriber units are ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~.

45. (Currently Amended)A communications system as claimed in claim 44, comprising a plurality of a dedicated connections, each dedicated connection being between a respective second network sink node unit and a respective third network unit whereby a second network subscriber unit ~~may~~ is configured to be provided with a communication path to ~~another~~ a respective third network unit.

46. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the said communication is data communication.

47. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 46, wherein the said communication is packet data communication.

48. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the said communication uses an internet protocol.

49. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the said communication in the first network is radio communication.

50. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the said communication in the second network is radio communication.

51. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 42, wherein the said communication in the third network is radio communication.

52. (Currently Amended)A communications unit for operation in a communications system including a first network comprising a plurality of first network subscriber units; and a second network geographically at least partly overlapping the first network and comprising a plurality of second network subscriber units and a second network sink node unit ~~capable~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~ with the second network subscriber units; ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the communications unit is operable as a first network sink node unit ~~capable of~~configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~ with the first network subscriber units, and ~~includes means for providing~~further comprises a dedicated connection to a second network unit capable of communication in the second network, whereby a first network subscriber unit may be provided with a communication path to another second network unit.

53. (Currently Amended)A method for providing a communication path in a communications system comprising: a first network comprising a plurality of first network subscriber units and a

first network sink node unit ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~ with the first network subscriber units; and a second network geographically at least partly overlapping the first network and comprising a plurality of second network subscriber units and a second network sink node unit ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~ with the second network subscriber units; the method ~~characterized by~~ comprising providing a dedicated connection between the first network sink node unit and a second network unit ~~capable of~~ configured to communicate~~ion~~ in the second network, whereby a first network subscriber unit is provided with a communication path to another second network unit.

54. (Currently Amended)A communications system comprising:

a first network comprising a first sink node and a plurality of first communication terminals ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~ with the first sink node;

a second network geographically at least partly overlapping the first network and comprising a second sink node and a plurality of second communication terminals ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~ with the second sink node;

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first sink node is further ~~capable of~~ configured to operate as a second communication terminal for providing the first communication terminals with communications access to the second network.

55. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 54, wherein wireless communication in the first network is independent of wireless communication in the second network.

56. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 55, wherein wireless communication in the first network is in a different frequency band from wireless communication in the second network.

57. (Currently Amended)A communications system as claimed in claim 56, wherein the first network comprises a plurality of first network sink node units with which the first communication terminals are ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~.

58. (Currently Amended)A communications system as claimed in claim 57, comprising a plurality of a dedicated connections, each dedicated connection being between a respective first network sink node unit and a respective second network unit whereby a first network communication terminal ~~may be~~ is configured to be provided with a communications access to the second network.

59. (Currently Amended)A communications system as claimed in claim 58, comprising:

a third network geographically at least overlapping the second network and comprising a plurality of third network communication terminals and a third network sink node unit configured to wirelessly communicate with the third network communication terminals; and

a dedicated connection between a second network sink node unit and a third network unit ~~capable of~~ configured to communicate~~ion~~ in the third network, whereby a second network communication terminal ~~may~~ is configured to be provided with communications access to the third network.

60. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 59, wherein wireless communication in the first network and in the second network is independent of wireless communication in the third network.

61. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 60, wherein wireless communication in the first network and in the second network is in a different frequency band from wireless communication in the third network.

62. (Currently Amended)A communications system as claimed in claim 61, wherein the second network comprises a plurality of second network sink node units with which the second network communication terminals are ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~.

63. (Currently Amended)A communications system as claimed in claim 62 ~~as dependent directly or indirectly on claim 24~~, comprising a plurality of a dedicated connections, each dedicated connection being between a respective second network sink node unit and a respective third

network unit whereby a second network communication terminal ~~may~~ is configured to be provided with a communications access to the third network.

64. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in of claim 63, wherein the said communication is data communication.

65. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 64, wherein the said communication is packet data communication.

66. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 54, wherein the said communication uses an internet protocol.

67. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 54, wherein the said communication in the first network is radio communication.

68. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 54, wherein the said communication in the second network is radio communication.

69. (Previously Presented) A communications system as claimed in claim 60, wherein the said communication in the third network is radio communication.

70. (Currently Amended)A communications unit for operation in a communications system including a first network comprising a plurality of first communication terminals; a second network geographically at least partly overlapping the first network and comprising a second sink node and a plurality of second communication terminals ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicat~~ion~~ with the second sink node; ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the communications unit is operable as a first sink node ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicat~~ion~~ with the first communication terminals and of operation as a second communication terminal for providing the first communication terminals with communications access to the second network.

71. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 70, the wireless communication in the first network is being independent of wireless communication in the second network.

72. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 71, the wireless communication in the first network being in a different frequency band from wireless communication in the second network.

73. (Currently Amended) A communications unit as claimed in claim 72, the first network comprising a plurality of first network sink node units with which the first network subscriber units are ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~.

74. (Currently Amended) A communications unit as claimed in claim 73, the communications system comprising a plurality of a dedicated connections, each dedicated connection being between a respective first network sink node unit and a respective second network unit whereby a first network subscriber unit ~~may~~ is configured to be provided with a communication path to another second network unit.

75. (Currently Amended) A communications unit as claimed in claim 74, the communications system comprising:

a third network geographically overlapping the second network and comprising a plurality of third network subscriber units and a third network sink node unit ~~capable of~~ configured to wirelessly communicate~~ion~~ with the primary third network unit; and

a dedicated connection between a second network sink node unit and a third network unit capable of communication in the third network, whereby a second network subscriber unit ~~may~~ is configured to be provided with a communication path to another third network unit.

76. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 75, the wireless communication in the first network and in the second network being independent of wireless communication in the third network.

77. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 76, the wireless communication in the first network and in the second network being in a different frequency band from wireless communication in the third network.

78. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 77, the second network comprising a plurality of second network sink node units with which the second network subscriber units are configured to wirelessly communicate.

79. (Currently Amended) A communications unit as claimed in claim 78, the communications system comprising a plurality of a dedicated connections, each dedicated connection being between a respective second network sink node unit and a respective third network unit whereby a second network subscriber unit ~~may~~ is configured to be provided with a communication path to another third network unit.

80. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 79, the said communication being data communication.

81. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 80, the said communication being packet data communication.

82. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 70, the said communication using an internet protocol.

83. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 70, the said communication in the first network being radio communication.

84. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 70, the said communication in the second network being radio communication.

85. (Previously Presented) A communications unit as claimed in claim 75, the said communication in the third network being radio communication.

86. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a communications unit in a communications system including a first network comprising a plurality of first communication terminals; a second network geographically at least partly overlapping the first network and comprising a second sink node and a plurality of second communication terminals ~~capable of~~configured to wirelessly communicat~~ion~~e with the second sink node; the method ~~characterized by~~ comprising operating the communications unit as a first sink node configured to ~~capable of~~ wirelessly communicat~~ion~~e with the first communication terminals; and operating the communications unit as a second communication terminal for providing the first communication terminals with communications access to the second network.

87. (Previously Presented) A processor configured to execute a computer program at a communications unit, the communications unit operating in a communications system including a first network comprising a plurality of first communication terminals; a second network geographically at least partly overlapping the first network and comprising a second sink node and a plurality of second communication terminals capable of wireless communication with the second sink node; the computer program being configured to cause the communication unit to operate as a first sink node capable of wireless communication with the first communication terminals and as a second communication terminal for providing the first communication terminals with communications access to the second network.

88. (Previously Presented) A controller for a communications unit operating in a communications system including a first network comprising a plurality of first communication terminals; a second network geographically at least partly overlapping the first network and comprising a second sink node and a plurality of second communication terminals capable of wireless communication with the second sink node; the controller being configured to cause the communication unit to operate as a first sink node capable of wireless communication with the first communication terminals and as a second communication terminal for providing the first communication terminals with communications access to the second network.